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Board of Supervisors

HILDA L. SOLIS  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

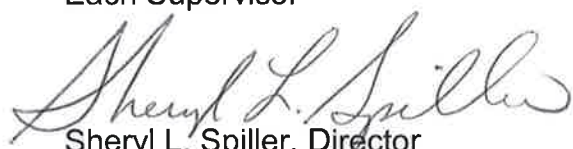
SHEILA KUEHL  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

August 5, 2015

**TO:** Each Supervisor

**FROM:**   
Sheryl L. Spiller, Director

**SUBJECT: MOTION BY SUPERVISORS RIDLEY-THOMAS AND KNABE AND  
AMENDMENT BY MAYOR ANTONOVICH AND SUPERVISORS SOLIS  
AND KUEHL ON PREVENTING CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING AT  
HOTELS/MOTELS RECEIVING COUNTY VOUCHERS (MARCH 3, 2015,  
AGN NO. S-1)**

This is to provide the Board with the quarterly status report on the Department of Public Social Services' (DPSS) progress with the plan outlined in our April 3, 2015 memo. Consistent with the Board's motion, the plan included steps towards the prevention of child sex trafficking at hotels/motels that participate in the General Relief (GR) Emergency Housing Program via County vouchers.

The attached DPSS Preventing Child Sex Trafficking at Hotel/Motel Initiatives Report provides the progress achieved on the following six initiatives identified in the Board Motion:

1. In collaboration with County Counsel, amend the existing "Acknowledgement of the Receipt of Rules for Emergency Housing Facilities" agreement with the hotel/motels owners, to include the four new requirements as specified in in the March 3 Board Motion, and execute the amended agreement within 60 days with all currently-participating hotels/motels that agree to do so.
2. Work with the Probation Department to help design awareness posters to display at hotels/motels, and develop child sex trafficking prevention training curriculum to be provided to hotels/motels, including the identification of the associated cost.
3. Work with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department and other law enforcement agencies to ensure the timely reporting of child sex trafficking incidents in these facilities, as well as law enforcement access to the guest registries.

4. Enhance the DPSS monitoring process to ensure hotels/motels are complying with both the existing and new program requirements.
5. Conduct a market analysis which will take into account total GR housing needs and availability of hotels/motels and shelters within specific geographic areas. The market analysis will help determine if an across-the-board rate increase is required or whether a rate increase is warranted in specific geographic areas.
6. Work with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to explore the feasibility of expanding shelter capacity for homeless GR applicants to reduce the Department's reliance on motels/hotels.

We will continue with the Department's proposed plan, unless otherwise directed by the Board. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (562) 908-8383, or your staff may contact Jose R. Perez, Assistant Director, at (562) 908-8633, or via email at [joseperez@dpss.lacounty.gov](mailto:joseperez@dpss.lacounty.gov).

SLS:LD:mk

Attachment

c: Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Interim County Counsel



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES PREVENTING CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING AT EMERGENCY HOUSING SHELTERS

### Quarterly Status Report for Plan Outlined in April 3, 2015 Board Memo

1. In collaboration with County Counsel, amend the existing "Acknowledgement of the Receipt of Rules for Emergency Housing Facilities" agreement with the hotel/motels owners, to include the four new requirements as specified in the March 3 Board Motion, and execute the amended agreement within 60 days with all currently-participating hotels/motels that agree to do so.

#### Acknowledgement of Receipt of Rules

As of April 2015, the Department had 40 participating hotels/motels, of which 7 (17.5%) requested to be removed, leaving 33 (82.5%) hotels/motels. On June 10, 2015, the amended Agreement was sent to the 33 participating hotels/motels that signed and returned the Agreement. Hotels/Motels that opted to leave the program gave reasons that included the County rate is too low; the County rate does not cover cost of property damage; and concerns over our GR participant's behavior.

#### GR Emergency Housing Bed Capacity

- The loss of the 7 Hotels/Motels represented a bed capacity loss of 83; however, we have an overall excess bed capacity per night of 349.

Sup District	Available Beds		Capacity Loss
	Pre Agreement April 2015	Post Agreement July 2015	
1	108	98	10
2	300	255	45
3	0	0	0
4	212	193	19
5	15	6	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>83</b>

#### GR Emergency Housing Bed Capacity and Bed Utilization as of July 2015

- 33 hotels/motels are participating with the Emergency Housing Program.
- GR participants used an average of 203 hotel/motel beds per night for the first six months of 2015.
- The current bed capacity exceeds the average bed usage per night by 349 beds.
- These figures do not include the contracted shelter bed/usage set aside of 105 beds per night for GR applicants. Shelter bed utilization is 69%.

Sup District	Jan 2015 – June 2015		
	Available Beds Per Night	Average Usage Per Night	Excess Bed Per Night
1	98	35	63
2	255	82	173
3	0	0	0
4	193	84	109
5	6	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>349</b>



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES PREVENTING CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING AT EMERGENCY HOUSING SHELTERS

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2. **Work with the Probation Department to help design awareness posters to display at hotels/motels, and develop child sex trafficking prevention training curriculum to be provided to hotels/motels, including the identification of the associated cost.**

Human trafficking prevention posters have been distributed to all participating hotels/motels. DPSS monitors for the display of posters during hotel/motel monthly monitoring reviews.

The Probation Department:

- Conducted two 3 hour in-person sex trafficking prevention training (July 9 and July 30) for participating hotels/motels staff. Thirty motels participated in the training; the remaining three motels will be trained in August 2015.
- Will provide a 30 minute sex trafficking prevention DVD by mid-August which hotel/motel managers can use to train additional staff.

3. **Work with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department and other law enforcement agencies to ensure the timely reporting of child sex trafficking incidents in these facilities, as well as law enforcement access to the guest registries.**

A provision in the Agreement allows law enforcement to review the hotel/motel guest registry at-will. DPSS is working with law enforcement to establish a protocol so that we are informed when hotel/motel staff refuses to allow law enforcement review their guest registries.

As of this report, the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, Los Angeles, Burbank, Long Beach and Inglewood Police Departments agreed to provide DPSS with:

- Email notifications of arrests involving sex trafficking and related criminal activity along with a recommendation on whether to remove the hotel/motel from the Emergency Housing List.
- Provide arrest reports, upon Department's request, to support evidentiary proof that the sex trafficking arrests or related criminal activity occurred at a participating hotel/motel.

DPSS will continue to work to increase participation from other law enforcement agencies.

4. **Enhance the DPSS monitoring process to ensure hotels/motels are complying with both the existing and new program requirements.**

The DPSS monthly monitoring process was strengthened to ensure hotels/motels are complying with both the existing and new program requirements. DPSS documents the monthly monitoring to ensure hotels/motels adhere to the administrative, fiscal and service delivery guidelines.



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES PREVENTING CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING AT EMERGENCY HOUSING SHELTERS

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In addition to the new agreements, Hotels/Motels are also required to:

- Maintain an adequate number of rooms for GR participants daily.
- Process voucher invoices according to fiscal processes.
- Provide clean and habitable rooms.

Hotels/Motels are aware that they need to adhere to child sex trafficking prevention requirement and report all criminal activity related to sex/human trafficking to the County. Hotel/motel owners understand that failure to do so may result in removal of the hotel/motel from the Emergency Housing List.

The monthly monitoring reviews conducted to date have shown that hotels/motels are complying with these requirements. Minor discrepancies such as failure to secure GR Applicant signature on the daily voucher log are resolved during the monthly visits.

- 5. Conduct a market analysis which will take into account total GR housing needs and availability of hotels/motels and shelters within specific geographic areas. The market analysis will help determine if an across-the-board rate increase is required or whether a rate increase is warranted in specific geographic areas.**

### Market Analysis

On May 12, 2015, DPSS conducted a survey of 235 hotels/motels to assess interest in the Emergency Housing Program. The response rate was very low as only 14 (6%) of the 235 hotels and motels targeted responded. Survey results revealed that:

Hotels/Motels that would consider participating in the program were not willing to adhere to the mandatory requirement of displaying the sex trafficking prevention poster or the monthly health and safety inspections.

Hotels/motels that would not consider participating in the program gave reasons such as:

- The current daily rate of \$24 per night was too low. The daily rate requested ranged from \$59 to \$200 per night.
- They were concerned that our clients would be disruptive to their other clientele and destructive of their property.
- Were opposed to reserving a minimum number of rooms daily.

### Evaluation of Across-the-Board Rate Increase

Given the availability of rooms and the additional 199 shelter beds that could be obtained through the LAHSA Crisis Housing and Services program; there is adequate capacity at the current price. Therefore, at this time, we would not recommend an across-the-board rate increase.



## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES PREVENTING CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING AT EMERGENCY HOUSING SHELTERS**

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- 6. Work with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to explore the feasibility of expanding shelter capacity for homeless GR applicants to reduce the Department's reliance on motels/hotels.**

LAHSA reported that they surveyed the agencies contracted under their Crisis Housing and Services program as well as the non-funded providers of emergency shelter to determine if they would have the capacity to add dedicated beds to shelter single homeless GR applicants. Providers who expressed interest can increase our shelter capacity by approximately 199 beds mostly in the First, Second and Fifth Supervisorial Districts. The cost for the additional beds would be \$1.8M, which includes administrative, staffing and \$24 nightly bed usage fee.

DPSS intends to continue working with LAHSA to expand the number of shelter beds reducing our overall reliance on the hotel/motel vendors.